


amendment as claims 31-44.

Please amend claims 31-44 as follows:

--31. (AMENDED) A method for determining whether a specimen contains an analyte species, comprising the steps of:

- a. capturing and isolating the analyte species from the specimen using an affinity reagent having a specific affinity for the analyte species wherein the affinity reagent includes an antibody immobilized onto a solid substrate;
- b. detecting the presence of the isolated analyte species using a mass spectrometer to determine whether the analyte species was present in the specimen; and
- c. determining the identity of the analyte species by using molecular weight analysis.—

--32. (AMENDED) The method of claim 31 wherein the step of capturing and isolating the sample species includes the steps of:

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- a. combining an effective amount of the affinity reagent with the specimen until the affinity reagent binds with any of the analyte species that is present in the specimen to produce a post-combination affinity reagent and an unbound remainder of the specimen;
 - b. separating the post-combination affinity reagent from the unbound remainder to form an isolated post-combination affinity reagent; and
 - c. adding a laser desorption/ionization agent to the isolated post-combination affinity reagent to form a mass spectrometric mixture.—

--33. (AMENDED) The method of claim 32 wherein the step of combining an effective amount of the affinity reagent with the specimen is accomplished by using a micropipette tip in which there is a filter element which retains the affinity reagent.—

--34. (AMENDED) The method of claim 32 further including the step of adding a disassociation agent to the isolated post-combination affinity reagent prior to the step of adding the laser desorption/ionization agent.—

--35. (AMENDED) The method of claim 34 wherein the step of combining an effective amount of the affinity reagent with the specimen is accomplished by using a micropipette tip in which there is a filter element which retains the affinity reagent.—

--36. (AMENDED) A method for determining whether a specimen contains any of one or more analyte species, comprising the steps of:

- a. capturing and isolating each of the one or more analyte species from the specimen using an affinity reagent having a specific affinity for each of the one or more analyte species wherein the affinity reagent includes at least one antibody immobilized onto a solid substrate;
- b. detecting the presence of the isolated one or more analyte species by using a mass spectrometer to determine whether each of the one or more analyte species was present in the specimen; and
- c. determining the identity of the one or more analyte species by using molecular weight analysis.—

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--37. (AMENDED) The method of claim 36 wherein the step of capturing and isolating each of the one or more analyte species includes the steps of:

- a. combining an effective amount of the affinity reagent with the specimen until the affinity reagent binds with each of the one or more analyte species that is present in the specimen to produce a post-combination affinity reagent and an unbound remainder of the specimen;
- b. separating the post-combination affinity reagent from the unbound remainder to form an isolated post-combination affinity reagent; and
- c. adding a laser desorption/ionization agent to the isolated post-combination affinity reagent to form a mass spectrometric mixture.—

--38. (AMENDED) The method of claim 37 wherein the step of combining an effective amount of the affinity reagent with the specimen is accomplished by using a micropipette tip in which there is a filter element which retains the affinity reagent.—

--39. (AMENDED) The method of claim 37 further including the step of adding a disassociation agent to the isolated post-combination affinity reagent prior to the step of adding the laser desorption/ionization agent.—

--40. (AMENDED) The method of claim 39 wherein the step of combining an effective amount of the affinity reagent with the specimen is accomplished by using a micropipette tip in which there is a filter element which retains the affinity reagent.—

--41. (AMENDED) The method of claim 36 wherein the step of capturing and isolating each of the one or more analyte species includes the steps of:

- a. immobilizing a plurality of different antibodies onto a solid substrate to produce said affinity reagent;

- b. combining an effective amount of the affinity reagent with the specimen until the affinity reagent binds with each of the one or more analyte species that is present in the specimen to produce a post-combination affinity reagent and an unbound remainder of the specimen;
- c. separating the post-combination affinity reagent from the unbound remainder to form an isolated post-combination affinity reagent; and
- d. adding a laser desorption/ionization agent to the isolated post-combination affinity reagent to form a mass spectrometric mixture.—

--42. (AMENDED) The method of claim 41 wherein the step of combining an effective amount of the affinity reagent with the specimen is accomplished by using a micropipette tip in which there is a filter element which retains the affinity reagent.—

--43. (AMENDED) The method of claim 41 further including the step of adding a disassociation agent to the isolated post-combination affinity reagent prior to the step of adding the laser desorption/ionization agent.—

--44. (AMENDED) The method of claim 43 wherein the step of combining an effective amount of the affinity reagent with the specimen is accomplished by using a micropipette tip in which there is a filter element which retains the affinity reagent.—

Please add the following new claims 45-47:

--45. (NEW) The method of claim 32 wherein the step of detecting the isolated analyte species includes mass spectrometrically analyzing the mass spectrometric mixture to produce a mass spectrum, said mass spectrum indicating whether the specimen contained the analyte species by exhibiting a mass spectrometric response located at a